AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A method of making paper comprising:

mixing a pulp slurry and a polymer emulsion comprising a cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A) and polymer particles (B) having an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 19.4 μm and comprising at least vinyl monomer-derived structural units comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of vinyl acetate units,

wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method, suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of [[a]] said cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A) to form a mixture, such that the proportion of (A) is from 10 to 315 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polymer particles (B); wherein the polymer emulsion has a solid content of 7.9 to 39 % by weight and wherein the glass transition temperature (TG) of (B) is from 32 °C to 59°C;

filtering said mixture on a wire mesh to drain water out to form a paper layer, and

wherein said polymer emulsion is added to said pulp slurry at the time of papermaking.

2. – 6. (**Canceled**)

7. (Previously Presented) A pulp sheet made by the method according to claim 1.

8. (Previously Presented) The pulp sheet according to claim 7, wherein the polymer emulsion of claim 1 is present in an amount of 0.05 to 20 parts by weight in terms of solid content to 100 parts by weight of the pulp sheet.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method of making paper comprising:

mixing a pulp slurry and a polymer emulsion comprising a cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A) having a viscosity of 20 mPa·s or more in a 7 wt. % aqueous solution as determined at 50°C with a Brookfield viscometer and Rotor No. 2 at 60 rpm, and polymer particles (B) having an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 19.4 μm and having a glass transition temperature (TG) of 32°C to 59°C having vinyl monomer-derived structural units comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of vinyl acetate units,

wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method, suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of [[a]] said cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A), such that the proportion of (A) is from 10 to 315 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polymer particles (B); and wherein the polymer emulsion has a solid content of 7.9 to 39 % by weight; and

filtering said mixture on a wire mesh to drain water out to form a paper layer,

wherein said polymer emulsion is added to said pulp slurry at the time of papermaking.

10. (**Currently Amended**) A method of improving stiffness of paper comprising:

bringing pulp into contact with a polymer emulsion comprising a cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A) and polymer particles (B) having an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 19.4 μm and comprising at least vinyl monomer-derived structural units comprising 94.66 wt. % to 100 wt. % of vinyl acetate units,

wherein the polymer particles (B) are obtained by an emulsion polymerization method, suspension polymerization method or dispersion polymerization method in the presence of [[a]] said cationic starch having a nitrogen content (N%) of 0.2 to 0.8 percent (A), such that the proportion of (A) is from 10 to 315 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the polymer particles (B); wherein the polymer emulsion has a solid content of 7.9 to 39 % by weight; and wherein the glass transition temperature (TG) of (B) is from 32 °C to 59°C; and

wherein said pulp is contacted with said polymer emulsion at the time of papermaking.

11. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, in which the vinyl monomer-derived structural unit comprises 2.43 wt. % or less of a polymerizable unsaturated group – containing anionic monomer.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, in which the vinyl monomer-derived structural unit comprises 2.78 wt. % or less of a nonionic hydrophilic group – containing monomer.

15. - 20. (**Cancelled**)